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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany  
SUBJECT Railroad Activities

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Between 1 and 20 March 1955, the following observations were made: 25X1

- a. Preparations are under way to reduce the number of railroad personnel and the rate of wages and salaries on 1 April 1955. Contrary to general labor regulations, notice has been given to those concerned only two weeks in advance. Persons who were heavily disabled during the war were notified of their release four weeks in advance. The measures were allegedly connected with special efforts to help the heavy industry and agriculture. Railroad employees, who were not given notice, voluntarily accepted reductions in their wages amounting up to 50 percent. Every employee will have to reckon with a pay cut from 100 to 150 DEM at least.<sup>1</sup>
- b. In conjunction with the reduction of railroad personnel, the organization will be changed. RBAs Riesa and one of RbD Dresden have been deactivated. The remaining RBAs Chemnitz, Dresden, and Zwickau have only retained Departments for Operation and Traffic. The previous Departments for Machinery and Construction Work have been made into "Bereichsbahnmeistereien" (regional railroad maintenance shops) and have been directly subordinated to RBAs. 2

2. The following information was obtained in RBD Magdeburg:

- a. A total of 46 employees of the Departments for Operations and Traffic will be replaced by other personnel on 1 April 1955. The persons affected by this release belonged to the group of suspect persons such as former officers, professional soldiers, members of the NSDAP, and persons with relatives in West Germany. The employees released will be employed in other assignments.

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b. RBAs will henceforth retain only Departments for Operations and Traffic.)

3. In mid March, an agreement was concluded between the GDR railroad administration and the Polish State Railroads concerning an exchange of locomotives beginning in April 1955. The GDR will deliver 300 Polish locomotives which were deactivated because of heavy damages and had been parked in Germany since 1945, while the Poles will deliver 15 type Tp 1 (58), 9 type Pt 1 (39), and 1 type Vt 1 locomotives. The locomotives to be sent to Germany from Poland are serviceable. 3
4. On 14 March, Brand (fnu), formerly chief of RBA 5, Rustermark, was made chief of RBA 5/6 at Berlin-Pankow. 4
5. On 16 March, 15 to 17 type 52 locomotives and 4 cabooses were seen parked at Ruednitz railroad station. Two of the cabooses were lighted at night. 5
6. On 20 March, construction work was still under way on the new side-loading ramp at Neubukow. This loading ramp will be about 800 meters long. No information was available on the completion date for the ramp. 6
7. a. In early March, it was learned that the Wuhlheide marshalling yard will be equipped with a turntable to be dismantled and moved from the Guben station. Originally it was planned to build a rail triangle as a substitute for a turntable. A sum of 2.5 million DM has been allocated for the enlargement of the marshalling yard in 1956. A new workshop for the repair of freight cars is scheduled to be built. 7
- b. Designs for the construction of the new railroad line between Hoyerswerda and Schwarze Pumpe are to be completed by 15 May. A complex of coal processing plants is located between Schwarze Pumpe and Trattendorf south of Spremberg. 8

1. Comment. In accordance with directives resolved upon during the 21st Plenary Session of the SED Central Committee and the Traffic Conference held in Leipzig in early February 1955, the budget of all agencies controlled by the GDR Ministry of Traffic has been drastically cut. 25X1 25X1
2. Comment. The deactivation of RBAs Riesa and Aue was known previously. 25X1  
The fact that RBAs will henceforth retain only Departments for Operations and Traffic was also reported previously. 25X1 25X1
3. Comment. This information is received for the first time. On 31 January 1955, the GDR park of damaged locomotives consisted of 915 standard-gauge steam locomotives, including 700 foreign locomotives. 25X1  
The locomotives to be furnished by the Poles are German equipment left in the country at the end of the war. Series      locomotives are freight locomotives and series      locomotives are passenger locomotives. The abbreviation Vt may stand for "Verbrennungsmotor-Triebwagen" (rail motor coach fitted with combustion engine). 25X1 25X1

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4. [ ] Comment. The deactivation of RBA 5 and its amalgamation with RBA 6 is confirmed. [ ] 25X1  
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5. [ ] Comment. The locomotives observed belonged to deactivated locomotive column No 3 and are kept as a reserve of the Ministry of Traffic. [ ] 25X1  
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6. [ ] Comment. Information on this construction project which is executed by order of the Soviets was transmitted previously. [ ] 25X1  
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Neubukow which is located on the single-track Wismar-Rostock railroad line serves the Soviet AAA range at Wustrow.
7. [ ] Comment. The Wuhlheide marshalling yard is going to be made the largest installation of its kind in the GDR. Construction work is making slow progress. [ ] 25X1  
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8. [ ] 25X1

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